

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of purchasing goods from a merchant and delivering goods to a user, comprising:
 - 5 a) an order step wherein, after communicating with a server system through a merchant website, the user selects one or more goods to purchase, the user places an order for selected goods via a user terminal;
 - b) an assembly step, wherein the order is communicated to an assembling means via a merchant interface unit, prompting the assembling means to take the goods from the merchant's inventory and assemble the order; and
 - 10 c) a delivery step, wherein the order is placed by the assembling means in a storage unit for the user to pick up.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the order step further comprises the user requesting a location of the storage unit and a time interval from the server system for the user to pick up the goods.
- 20 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the server system transmits the order to a storage device system terminal, which responds with storage information concerning storage units in the storage device, the storage unit and the time interval are assigned, and the server communicates the storage unit and the time interval information to the merchant interface unit and to the user.
- 25 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the user interface terminal displays the order information, the assigned storage unit and the assigned time interval.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the assembly step comprises an assembling means placing the products in the assigned storage unit at or before the assigned time interval

5 6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising assigning a security code to the user, wherein the user inputs the security code at the storage unit to access unit and obtain the goods.

7. A system for purchasing and delivering goods, comprising:
10 a) a server system which is coupled to a storage device system terminal;
b) one or more storage units contained in a storage device, the one or more units being coupled to the storage device system terminal and to the server system;
15 c) a user terminal, which is coupled to the server system; and
d) a merchant interface terminal, which is coupled to the server system.

20 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage devices are climate controlled.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the merchant interface terminal is a printer which prints out a copy of the order.

25 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the merchant interface terminal is a monitor which displays the order.

11. A device for a user to purchase goods from a merchant, wherein the device is coupled to a server system with an inventory database of the merchant, the device comprising:

- a) a user interface;
- 5 b) data entry means coupled to the user interface for communicating data to the user;
- c) a program module which enables the user to
 - i) select goods for purchase from the inventory database of the merchant,
 - 10 ii) select a storage device containing at least one storage unit using a storage device reservation system,
 - iii) select a time for the goods to be placed in a storage unit contained in a storage device using a storage device reservation system,
 - 15 iv) pay for the goods by inputting payment information through the data entry means; and
 - d) a processing unit to execute instructions of the program module.

20 12. The device of claim 11, where the data entry means is a touch screen.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein the data entry means is a keyboard.

25

14. The device of claim 11, wherein the payment information comprises a credit card number, expiration date, and cardholders name.

15. The device of claim 11, wherein the payment information comprises a checking account number and check number.

16. A reservation system for allocating storage units in storage devices, comprising:

- 5 a) a storage device system terminal;
- b) one or more storage units coupled to the storage device system terminal;
- c) a server system which is coupled to the storage device system terminal;
- 10 d) a merchant interface unit coupled to the server system;
- and
- e) a user terminal which is coupled to the server system.

17. The reservation system of claim 16, wherein the user terminal is
15 coupled to the server system by accessing the server system through a website on the internet.

18. The reservation system of claim 16, wherein the one or more storage units comprise an indicating means coupled to the server system for
20 indicating to the server system information about the status of the storage unit.

19. A reservation system for allocating storage devices, comprising:

- a) one or more storage units;
- b) a storage device system terminal which is coupled to the
25 one or more storage units; and
- c) an indicator means coupled to the server system or to the storage device system terminal for indicating information about the status of the storage unit.

20. A method of reserving storage units at different time intervals, comprising:

- 5 a) a time interval query step where a user queries a server system for a chosen time interval during which the user wants access to the storage unit;
- b) an availability query step wherein the server system communicates with a storage device system terminal to determine if any storage units are available during the chosen time interval; and
- 10 c) an assign step, wherein the storage device system, after communicating with the server system that a storage unit is available for the chosen time interval, assigns a combination to the storage unit available for the assigned time interval, and communicates the location of the assigned storage unit and the assigned time interval to the user.

15

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the availability query step further provides that if the storage device system terminal communicates to the server system that there are not any storage devices available for the chosen time interval, the time interval query step is repeated, requesting the
20 user to enter a time interval other than the previously entered chosen time interval.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein a computer readable medium contains instructions to perform the functions of Claim 1.

25

23. The system of Claim 19, wherein the status information indicates that the storage unit is empty.

24. The system of Claim 23, further comprising transmitting the information concerning the empty storage unit to a merchant interface unit coupled to the server system.

5 25. The system of Claim 23, further comprising transmitting the information concerning the empty storage unit to a user terminal which is coupled to the server system.

26. The device of Claim 11, further comprising means in the
10 storage unit for the user to send parcels.